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Dated: March 9, 2005

Signature: *Maura A. Gallagher*  
*(Maura A. Gallagher)*

Docket No.: MIY-P01-032  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Wagner et al.

Application No.: 10/631364

Confirmation No.: 2195

Filed: July 31, 2003

Art Unit: 3764

For: **BIOABSORBABLE CASING FOR  
SURGICAL SLING ASSEMBLY**

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

A copy of each foreign and non-patent reference on the PTO/SB/08 is attached.

Applicant(s) have also become aware of the following documents, cited by the International Searching Authority in the International Search Report issued December 14, 2004, during the prosecution of international application no. PCT/US2004/023842, which corresponds to the above referenced application, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(c) and (e)(1) or (b)(3), hereby submits these documents for the Examiner's consideration. These documents are cited

on the enclosed PTO Form SB/08, and copies of the foreign document cited thereon are enclosed as well

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. MIY-P01-032. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: March 9, 2005

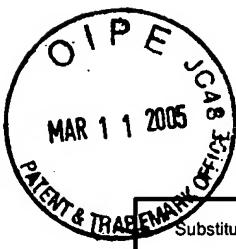
Respectfully submitted,

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<b>Complete If Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/631364
				Filing Date	July 31, 2003
				First Named Inventor	James Wagner
				Art Unit	3764
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	MIY-P01-032

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
AA	US-2001/0000533-A1	04-26-2001	Kovac, S.R.		
AB	US-2001/0023356-A1	09-20-2001	Raz et al.		
AC	US-2002/00127270	09-12-2002	Li et al.		
AD	US-2002/0013590-A1	01-31-2002	Therin et al.		
AE	US-2002/0082619-A1	06-27-2002	Cabak et al.		
AF	US-2002/0099260-A1	07-25-2002	Suslian et al.		
AG	US-2002/156489-A1	10-24-2002	Gellman		
AH	US-2003/0004580-A1	01-02-2003	Sump et al.		
AI	US-2003/0010929-A1	01-16-2003	Priewe et al.		
AJ	US-2003/0023135	01-30-2003	Ulmsten et al.		
AK	US-2003/0028075	02-06-2003	Ulmsten et al.		
AL	US-2003/0036676-A1	02-20-2003	Scetbon, V.		
AM	US-2003/0045892-A1	03-06-2003	Kaladelfos, G.		
AN	US-2003/0065246	04-03-2003	Inman et al.		
AO	US-2003/0100954-A1	05-29-2003	Schuldt-Hempe et al.		
AP	US-2003/0114866	06-19-2003	Ulmsten et al.		
AQ	US-2003/0130670-A1	07-10-2003	Anderson et al.		
AR	US-2003/0171644	09-11-2003	Anderson et al.		
AS	US-2003/0176762-A1	09-18-2003	Kammerer, G.W.		
AT	US-2003/0176875	09-18-2003	Anderson et al.		
AU	US-2003/0191480-A1	10-09-2003	Ulmsten et al.		
AV	US-2003/0212305	11-13-2003	Anderson et al.		
AW	US-2004/0243166	12-04-2002	Ethicon Gmbh		
AX	US-2004/0249240	12-09-2004	Ethicon Gmbh		
AY	US-2005/0010078	01-13-2005	Jamiolkowski		
AZ	US-2005/0010306	01-03-2005	Johnson & Johnson		
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AB1	US-3,565,073	02-23-1971	Giesy, J.D.		
AC1	US-3,704,712	11-28-1972	Giesy et al.		
AD1	US-4,798,193	01-17-1989	Giesy et al.		
AE1	US-4,824,435	04-25-1989	Giesy et al.		
AF1	US-4,872,451	10-10-1989	Moore et al.		
AG1	US-4,946,467	08-07-1990	Ohi et al.		
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AI1	US-5,002,550	03-26-1991	Li, L.K.		
AJ1	US-5,064,435	11-12-1991	Porter, C. H.		
AK1	US-5,078,730	01-07-1992	Li, L.K.		
AL1	US-5,084,058	01-28-1992	Li, L.K.		
AM1	US-5,087,263	02-11-1992	Li		
AN1	US-5,112,344	05-12-1992	Petros		
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AQ1	US-5,163,946	11-17-1992	Li		
AR1	US-5,207,679	05-04-1993	Li, L.K.		
AS1	US-5,250,033	10-05-1993	Evans et al.		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<b>Complete If Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/631364
				Filing Date	July 31, 2003
				First Named Inventor	James Wagner
				Art Unit	3764
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	2	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	MIY-P01-032

	AT1	US-5,256,150	10-26-1993	Quiachon et al.	
	AU1	US-5,334,185	08-02-1994	Giesy et al.	
	AV1	US-5,337,736	08-16-1994	Reddy	
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	AX1	US-5,383,904	01-24-1995	Totakura et al.	
	AY1	US-5,395,349	03-07-1995	Quiachon et al.	
	AZ1	US-5,439,467	06-17-1993	Benderev et al.	
	AA2	US-5,456,722	10-10-1995	McLeod et al.	
	AB2	US-5,505,735	04-09-1996	Li, L.K.	
	AC2	US-5,540,703	07-30-1996	Barker, Jr. et al.	
	AD2	US-5,544,664	08-13-1996	Benderev et al.	
	AE2	US-5,582,188	12-10-1996	Benderev et al.	
	AF2	US-5,611,515	03-18-1997	Benderev et al.	
	AG2	US-5,620,012	04-15-1997	Benderev et al.	
	AH2	US-5,637,112	06-10-1997	Moore et al.	
	AI2	US-5,645,589	07-08-1997	Li, L.K.	
	AJ2	US-5,683,418	11-04-1997	Luscombe et al.	
	AK2	US-5,690,649	11-25-1997	Li, L.K.	
	AL2	US-5,702,215	11-30-1997	Li, L.K.	
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	AN2	US-5,749,884	05-12-1998	Benderev et al.	
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	AP2	US-5,813,408	09-29-1998	Benderev et al.	
	AQ2	US-5,836,314	11-17-1998	Benderev et al.	
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	AU2	US-5,860,993	01-19-1999	Thompson et al	
	AV2	US-5,899,906	05-04-1999	Schenk	
	AW2	US-5,899,909	05-04-1999	Claren et al.	
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	AZ2	US-5,954,057	09-21-1999	Li, L.K.	
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	AB3	US-6,001,104	12-14-1999	Benderev et al.	
	AC3	US-6,039,686	03-21-2000	Kovac, S.R.	
	AD3	US-6,042,534	03-28-2000	Gellman et al.	
	AE3	US-6,050,937	04-18-2000	Benderev, T.V.	
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	AG3	US-6,056,688	05-02-2000	Benderev et al.	
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	AJ3	US-6,099,547	08-08-2000	Gellman et al.	
	AK3	US-6,200,330-B1	03-13-2001	Benderev et al.	
	AL3	US-6,245,082-B1	06-12-2001	Gellman et al.	
	AM3	US-6,264,676-B1	06-24-2001	Gellman et al.	
	AN3	US-6,273,852-B1	08-14-2001	Lehe et al.	
	AO3	US-6,306,079-B1	10-23-2001	Trabucco	
	AP3	US-6,322,492-B1	11-27-2001	Kovac, S.R.	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<b>Complete If Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				Application Number	10/631364
<i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Filing Date	July 31, 2003
				First Named Inventor	James Wagner
				Art Unit	3764
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	3	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	MIY-P01-032

AQ3	US-6,328,686-B1	12-11-2001	Kovac, S.R.	
AR3	US-6,382,214-B1	05-07-2002	Raz et al.	
AS3	US-6,406,423-B1	06-18-2002	Scetbon, V.	
AT3	US-6,423,080-B1	07-23-2002	Gellman et al.	
AU3	US-6,440,154-B2	08-27-2002	Gellman et al.	
AV3	US-6,478,727-B2	11-12-2002	Scetbon, V.	
AW3	US-6,491,703-B1	12-10-2002	Ulmsten, U.	
AX3	US-6,494,887-B1	12-17-2002	Kaladelfos, G.	
AY3	US-6,500,194-B2	12-31-2002	Benderev et al.	
AZ3	US-6,502,578-B2	01-07-2003	Raz et al.	
AA4	US-6,530,943-B1	03-11-2003	Hoepffner et al.	
AB4	US-6,582,443	06-24-2003	Cabak et al.	
AC4	US-6,596,001	07-22-2003	Stormby et al.	
AD4	US-6,596,002	07-22-2003	Therin et al.	
AE4	US-6,599,235	07-29-2003	Kovac	
AF4	US-6,605,097-B1	08-12-2003	Lehe et al.	
AG4	US-6,612,977-B1	09-02-2003	Staskin et al.	
AH4	US-6,638,209-B2	10-28-2003	Landgrebe, S.	
AI4	US-6,638,210-B2	10-28-2003	Berger, Y.	
AJ4	US-6,638,211-B2	10-28-2003	Suslian et al.	
AK4	US-6,641,525-B2	11-04-2003	Rocheleau et al.	
AL4	US-6,648,921-B2	11-18-2003	Anderson et al.	
AM4	US-6,652,450-B2	11-25-2003	Neisz et al.	
AN4	US-6,685,629-B2	02-03-2004	Therin, M.	
AO4	US-6,755,781	06-29-2004	Gellman	
AP4	US-6,802,807	10-12-2004	Anderson et al.	
AQ4	US-6,830,052	12-14-2004	Carter et al.	
AR4	US-D466213 S	11-26-2002	Snitkin et al.	

<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>2</sup> -Number <sup>3</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY		
BA	SU-1225547		04-23-1986	N.N. Kanshin et al.	X
BB	SU-1443873		12-15-1988	A. L. Kosakovskii	X
BC	WO-97/13465		04-17-1997	Ulmsten	
BD	WO-98/34545		08-13-1998	Koh et al.	X
BE	WO-02/32321		04-25-2002	Yeung et al.	
BF	WO-05/007019		01-27-2005	Jamiolkowski et al.	

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				Art Unit	3764
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	4	of	4	Attorney Docket Number	MIY-P01-032

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	Delorme, E. La bandelette trans-obturatrice: un procede mini-invasif pour traiter l'incontinence urinaire d'effort de la femme. Progres en Urologie. 11:1306-13 (2001) (English translation provided)			X
	CB	Giesy et al. Ureteral Instrumentation: A New System for Continued Access Via a Safety Guidewire. Journal of Urology. No. 4, Part 2, p. 282A (1988)			
	CC	Haab et al. Feasibility of Outpatient Percutaneous Bladder Neck Suspension Under Local Anesthesia. Urology. 50:4, 585-897 (1997)			
	CD	Jacquetin, B. Utilisation du TTV dans la chirurgie de l'incontinence urinaire feminine. J. Gynecol Obstet Biol Reprod. 29, 242-47 (2000)			X
	CE	Norris et al. Use of Synthetic Material in Sling Surgery: A Minimally Invasive Approach. Journal of Endourology. 10:3, 227-30 (1996)			
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	CG	Petros, P. Medium-term Follow-up of the Intravaginal Slingplasty Operation Indicates Minimal Deterioration of Urinary Continence with Time. Aust NZ J Obstet Gynaecol. 39:3, 354-56 (1999)			
	CH	Raz et al. Vaginal Wall Sling. The Journal of Urology. 141:43-6 (1989)			
	CI	Raz et al. Fascial Sling to Correct Mail Neurogenic Sphincter Incompetence: The McGuire/Raz Approach. Journal of Urology. Vol. 139: 528-531 (1988)			
	CJ	Schostak et al., "Transvaginal bone anchors in femal stress urinary incontinence: Poor Results." Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation, Vol. 54, no. 3, pps 154-158, 2002			
	CK	Staskin et al. The Gore-tex sling procedure for female sphincteric incontinence: indications, technique, and results. World J of Urol. 15:5, 295-99 (1997)			
	CL	Staskin, D.R. Sling Surgery for the Treatment of Female Stress Incontinence. 5:1, 106-22 (1991)			
	CM	Sussman, et al. The Raz Bladder Neck Suspension: Five-Year Experience. The Journal of Urology. 145, 223A (1993)			
	CN	Ulmsten et al. A Multicenter Study of Tension-Free Vaginal Tape (TVT) for Surgical Treatment of Stress Urinary Incontinence. Int Urogynecol J. 9:4, 210-13 (1998)			
	CO	Ulmsten et al. Surgery for female urinary incontinence. Current Opinion in Obstetrics & Gynecology. 4:3, 456-62 (1992)			
	CP	Ulmsten et al. Connective Tissue Factors in the Aetiology of Female Pelvic Disorders. Ann. Med. 22:6, 3 (1990)			
	CQ	Ulmsten, U. An Introduction to Tension-Free Vaginal Tape (TVT) - A New Surgical Procedure for Treatment of Female Urinary Incontinence. Int Urogynecol J. (Suppl 2): S3-4 (2001)			
	CR	Ulmsten, U. The basic understanding and clinical results of tension-free vaginal tape for stress urinary incontinence. Der Urologe [A] 40:269-73 (2001)			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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